

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00480 01 OF 02 031646Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----031739Z 040712 /45
O 031615Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2943

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 0480
EXDIS
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJECT: INITIAL PLANS FOR SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BEIRUT

REF: (A) STATE 15612, (B) STATE 17953, (C) STATE 17964,
(D) STATE 17966, (B) STATE 17967, (F) BEIRUT 383,
(G) PARIS 2854, (H) STATE 21819

1. S/S LIAISON OFFICER: FSO PAUL D. MOLINEAUX, POLITICAL
OFFICER, IS S/S LIAISON OFFICER AND CONTROL OFFICER (STATE
17953). THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS DESIGNATED CHIEF OF
PROTOCOL AMBASSADOR ABBAS HAMIEH AS GOL CONTROL OFFICER.
LIAISON OFFICER CALLED ON HAMIEH TO EXTENSIVELY DISCUSS
PLANS FOR VISIT ON JAN 31 AND FEB 2. LIAISON OFFICER
STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF SECRECY ON DATE OF VISIT AS WELL AS
SCHEDULE OF VISIT AND GAVE HAMIEH LIST OF PRESENTLY
EXPECTED MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS VISITING GROUPS (STATE
17966).

2. SPIRIT OF THE VISIT: HAMIEH SAID THAT PRESIDENT
SARKIS AND FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS WANT TO PROJECT
IMAGE OF A COUNTRY RECEIVING A GREAT FRIEND, JUST AFTER
A DOMESTIC DISASTER, DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT. ACCORDINGLY,
GOL BELIEVES THAT OSTENTATION AND PROTOCOL SHOULD BE
KEPT TO A MINIMUM. LIAISON OFFICER INDICATED THAT
SECRETARY VANCE LIKewise WANTS TO KEEP PURELY PROTOCOL
ASPECTS TO A MINIMUM (STATE 15612).

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3. GENERAL SCENARIO OF OFFICIAL PARTY. (DETAILED
SEPTEL ON EVENTS SCENARIO FOLLOWS.) EMBASSY AND
GOL PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING GENERAL SCENARIO:

A. A 1115, ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT. FOREIGN
MINISTER BOUTROS AND CHIEF OF PROTOCOL HAMIEH, BUT NO

OTHER GOL OFFICIALS, MEET SECRETARY AND PARTY AT PLANE-SIDE AT AIRPORT.

B. SHORT PRESS CONFERENCE: QUESTION OF WHETHER SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER SHOULD MEET WITH PRESS BRIEFLY FOR ARRIVAL STATEMENT, EITHER AT AIRPORT, OR AT YARZE, OR AT BAABDA PALACE STILL UNRESOLVED BECAUSE OF SECURITY CONSTRAINTS, TIME LIMITATIONS, AND GOL POLICY OF EXCLUDING PRESS FROM BAABDA PALACE. WILL ADVISE AS SOON AS GOL AND EMBASSY HAVE JOINT RECOMMENDATION.

C. PARTY WILL BOARD VEHICLES AND PROCEED TO EITHER US AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AT YARZE OR DIRECTLY TO BAABDA PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. DIRECT TRIP TAKES 20-25 MINUTES.

D. APPROXIMATELY 1140-1200 (DEPENDING ON PRESS MEETING ARRANGEMENTS), ARRIVAL AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AT BAABDA. ENTIRE OFFICIAL PARTY WOULD MEET WITH GOL FOREIGN MINISTRY PARTY HEADED BY BOUTROS IN "GRAND SALON" OF PRESIDENTIAL PALACE.

E. AT APPROXIMATELY 1215, FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS, THE SECRETARY, THE US CHIEF OF MISSION AND INTERPRETER (STATE 17967, BEIRUT 383) DEPART THE LARGER MEETING AND PROCEED TO MEET PRESIDENT SARKIS. HAMIEH IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER PRIME MINISTER HOSS WILL ALSO ATTEND MEETING, AND WILL ADVISE ASAP. HE IS ALSO CHECKING TO SEE IF PRESIDENT AND/OR FOREIGN
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MINISTER WILL HAVE NOTETAKERS (STATE 18236). THE LARGER MEETING BETWEEN OTHER MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY AND SELECTED GOL OFFICIALS WOULD CONTINUE. (DO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY HAVE ANY INTEREST IN SPECIAL SHORT MEETINGS DURING THIS TIME?)

F. AT 1315, THE GROUP SEEING THE PRESIDENT AND THE LARGER GROUP PROCEED TO LUNCH HOSTED BY THE PRESIDENT.

G. AT 1430, DEPARTURE FROM BAABDA PALACE FOR THE AIRPORT.

H. AT 1500, AIRCRAFT DEPARTURE.

4. VEHICLES (DETAILED SEPTTEL GIVING MOTORCADE ARRANGEMENTS FOLLOWS): ALL OFFICIAL PARTY WILL RIDE IN EMBASSY ARMORED VEHICLES WITH ARMED EMBASSY BODY GUARDS AND DRIVERS. TOTAL MOTORCADE, INCLUDING GOL SECURITY, WILL NUMBER APPROXIMATELY 14 VEHICLES.

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER BEIRUT 0481.

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EXDIS

5. SCENARIO FOR THE SUPPORT STAFF: BECAUSE OF LACK OF FACILITIES AT THE AIRPORT, AND RESIDUAL SECURITY PROBLEMS, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT UNDESIRABLE FOR STAFF SUPPORT GROUP TO REMAIN ON AIRCRAFT DURING ENTIRE VISIT, EXCEPT FOR THOSE PERSONNEL ACTUALLY WORKING AND NEEDING ACCESS TO AIRCRAFT COMMUNICATIONS (STATE 17964). GOL HAS ACCEPTED EMBASSY PLAN TO PROVIDE INFORMAL HOSPITALITY, INCLUDING LUNCHK, TO STAFF GROUP (AND TRAVELING PRESS) AT US AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AT YARZE, A QUARTER OF A MILE (TWO MINUTES DRIVE) FROM PRESIDENTIAL PALACE.

6. PRESS GROUP ACCOMPANYING THE SECRETARY: SCENARIO IS SAME AS FOR STAFF GROUP (PARA 5). EMBASSY WILL INVITE REPRESENTATIVES OF BEIRUT OFFICES OF PRESS ORGANIZATIONS ON SECRETARY'S PLANE, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION TO CALL ON THEIR COLLEAGUES AT YARZE. THERE ARE NO REPEAT NO TELEX FACILITIES AT THE AIRPORT OR YARZE (STATE 17964), AND TRAVELING PRESS GROUP SHOULD BE ADVISED TO PLAN TO FILE DISPATCHES AT NEXT STOP ON TRIP.

7. PHOTO OPPORTUUNITIES: THERE WILL BE NUMERIOUS "PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES" AT THE AIRPORT, AT ARRIVAL AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, AND AT THE AIRPORT JUST PRIOR TO TAKE OFF. THE OFFICIAL PALACE PHOTOGRAPHER WILL TAKE PICTURES INDOORS AND MAKE PRINTS AVAILABLE TO
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PRESS CORPS. (SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS COVERING PRESS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS TO BE COVERED IN SEPTEL.)

8. SECURITY LIAISON. APPROPRIATE EMBASSY OFFICERS WILL COORDINATE INITIALLY WITH COL ANTOINE DAHDAH (DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SURETE GENERALE) AND HISHAM SHA'AR (DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCE). (SEPTELS ON SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WILL FOLLOW.)

9. PRESS SUPPORT TO OFFICIAL PARTY. TEN COPIES OF SELECTED PRESS TICKER FROM BEIRUT UPI, AP, REUTERS, USIS WIRELESS FILE, AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, WILL BE FURNISHED BY EMBASSY TO SUPPORT STAFF ON ARRIVAL (STATE 17953).

10. AIRCRAFT SECURITY. HAMIEH ASSURED THAT THE AIRCRAFT WOULD BE GUARDED AT THE TAIRPORT BY ELEMENTS OF THE LEBANESE GENDARMERIE AND OF THE ARAB SECURITY FORCE. EMBASSY SECURITY AND ADMIN OFFICERS WILL DEVELOP CONTACTS THROUGH GOL SECURITY OFFICERS.

11. CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION. HAMIEH SAID THAT NORMAL CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES WOULD BE WAIVED FOR ALL THE VARIOUS GROUPS FROM THE AIRCRAFT AND SAID THAT PASS PORTS COULD BE STAMPED BOTH "IN" AND "OUT" IN A BATCH. REQUEST THAT ALL PASSPORTS AND SHOT RECORD CARDS BE PLACED IN ONE FLIGHT BAG TO BE HANDED TO EMBASSY OFFICER BY STAFF GROUP MEMBER UPON ARRIVAL.

12. STATEMENTS AND TOASTS. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS ARRIVAL STATEMENT BY SECRETARY, BUT, GIVEN BREVITY OF VISIT, NO DEPARTURE STATEMENT (HAMIEH IS SEEKING GOL VIEWS ON THIS). AFTER LUNCHEON, REMARKS IN RESPONSE TO TOAST BY PRESIDENT WILL BE EXPECTED. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE SUGGESTED TEXTS.

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13. VISIT OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER GUIRINGAND. HAMIEH REMARKED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GUIRINGAND WOULD BE ARRIVING IN LEBANON, ON FEB 16 AND DEPARTING ON FEB 18 AT APPROXIMATELY 1030. FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS WILL PLAN REMAIN AT THE AIRPORT WAITING FOR THE SECRETARY. LIAISON OFFICER TOLD HAMIEH THAT THE USG AND GOF WERE IN CONTACT ON THIS QUESTION (PARIS 2854).

14. DRAFT THANK YOU NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

ARE IN PREPARATION (STATE 17953).

15. GIFTS. LIAISON OFFICER CONVEYED TO HAMIEH USG
DESIRE AVOID ANY GIFT GIVING (STATE 21819). HAMIEH
AGREED IMMEDIATELY, REMARKING THAT THIS WOULD CONFORM
WITH AUSTERE IMAGE OF VISIT.
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NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER BEIRUT 481.

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